

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for compressing the chest of a patient comprising:

a band adapted to extend around the chest of the patient;

a driver mechanism, operably connected to the band, for
circumferentially contracting the band;

a fluid-filled cushion disposed between the chest of the
patient and the band; and

an automatic controller for controlling operation of the
driver mechanism.

2. A device for compressing the chest of a patient comprising:

a band adapted to extend around the chest of the patient, the
band having a length and a plurality of fluid-receiving
cells disposed along the length of the band;

a driver mechanism, operably connected to the band, for
inflating the fluid-receiving cells;

a cushion disposed between the chest of the patient and the
band; and

an automatic controller for controlling operation of the
driver mechanism.

3. The device of claim 2, wherein the cushion is a sealed
cushion.

4. The device of claim 2, wherein the band is comprised of an
inelastic material.

5. A device for compressing the chest of a patient comprising:

a band adapted to extend around the chest of the patient, the
band having a length and a plurality of fluid-receiving
cells disposed along the length of the band, wherein the

plurality of fluid-receiving cells are in fluid communication with each other;

a driver mechanism, connected to the band and the fluid-receiving cells, for inflating the fluid-receiving cells;

5 a cushion disposed between the chest of the patient and the band; and

an automatic controller for controlling the operation of the driver mechanism.

6. The device of claim 5, wherein the cushion is a sealed
10 cushion.

7. The device of claim 5, wherein the band is comprised of an inelastic material.

8. A device for compressing the chest of a patient comprising:

a band adapted to extend around the chest of the patient, the band having a length and a plurality of fluid-receiving cells disposed along the length of the band, each fluid-receiving cells being interconnected to another fluid-receiving cells by a linking portion;

a driver mechanism, operably connected to the band, for
20 inflating the fluid-receiving cells;

a cushion disposed between the chest of the patient and the band; and

an automatic controller for controlling operation of the driver mechanism.

25 9. The device of claim 8, wherein the cushion is a sealed cushion.

10. The device of claim 8, wherein the band is comprised of an inelastic material.

11. A device for compressing the chest of a patient comprising:

a band adapted to extend around the chest of the patient, the band having a length and a plurality of fluid-receiving cells disposed along the length of the band, each fluid-receiving cells being interconnected to another fluid-receiving cell by a linking portion, wherein the plurality of fluid-receiving cells are in fluid communication with each other;

a driver mechanism, connected to the band and the fluid-receiving cells, for inflating the fluid-receiving cells;

a cushion disposed between the chest of the patient and the band; and

an automatic controller for controlling the operation of the driver mechanism.

12. The device of claim 11, wherein the cushion is a sealed cushion.

13. The device of claim 11, wherein the band is comprised of an inelastic material.